

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 AID-10 OMB-01 PRS-01

EUR-10 IO-03 RSR-01 /078 W

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R 110600Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5839

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14524

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 10, 1973

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO 10 AUGUST 73
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFORMATION. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0638

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS

SUBJECT: MR IV SITREP FOR AUGUST 10, 1973

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUES CONCENTRATED IN
CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. THERE IS A CASE REPORTED FROM THE FIELD THAT
THE VIET CONG ARE SEEKING TO "DOCUMENT" A GVN CEASEFIRE
VIOLATION THROUGH BLACKMAIL. THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE
IN PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY. PROVINCES REPORT
CONTINUED RECRUITMENT AND UP-GRADING OF LOCAL VC UNITS.
RENEWED NVA INFILTRATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEGUN IN KIEN
GIANG. END SUMMARY.

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2. (A) SECURITY SITUATION: THERE WAS NO MR IV BRIEFING ON AUGUST 10. ON AUGUST 9, CORPS REPORTED 30 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS THE PREVIOUS DAY, INCLUDING 1 GROUND ATTACK, 21 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 5 HARASSMENTS AND 3 TERRORIST INCIDENTS. 12 OF THE INCIDENTS WERE IN CHUONG THIEN. CORPS REPORTS 16 TROOPS KILLED, 78 WOUNDED, 8 MISSING AND 9 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 50 VC KILLED, 3 CAPTURED, 3 CREW WEAPONS SEIZED AND 15 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) THE 9TH ARVN DIVISION LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 9 SEIZED A VC WEAPONS CACHE IN CHUONG THIEN NEAR THE PHONG DINH BORDER. IN THE PROCESS THEY KILLED 16 VC, CAPTURED ONE AND SEIZED 1 90-MM GUN, 2 60-MM MORTARS, 2 B-41 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, 1 B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHER, 1 30-CALIBER MACHINE GUN, 2 12.7-MM MACHINE GUN TUBES, 2 82-MM MORTAR STARLIGHT SCOPES, 2 M-16 RIFLES AND 1 RUSSIAN RIFLE.

3. ICCS: THE VINH BINH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT THE LOCAL VC ARE HOLDING THE BODIES OF 11 OUTPOST DEFENDERS RECENTLY KILLED AND AS OF LATEST REPORT THE VC STILL OCCUPY THE OUTPOST. THEY ARE REPORTEDLY DEMANDING THAT THE GVN TAN HOA VILLAGE AUTHORITIES GIVE THEM A WRITTEN ADMISSION OF A GVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATION IN RETURN FOR THE 11 CORPSES.

4. GVN ACTIVITIES: THERE IS SOME APPARENT INCREASE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY. IN CAN THO CITY, SOME LARGE BANNERS HAVE APPEARED ON THE STREETS, AND THE CITY WITNESSED A TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 7, LARGELY WITH STUDENT AND PSDF PARTICIPATION, LITERALLY DRUMMING UP POPULAR AWARENESS OF THE ELECTION. ALL THE ACTION APPEARS TO BE WITH SLATES 1 AND 2, WITH LITTLE ACTIVITY IN SUPPORT OF SLATES 3 OR 4. OUR VICE CONSUL IN DINH TUONG AND KIEN TUONG REPORTS THAT HE IS UNABLE TO LOCATE OR EVEN IDENTIFY A REPRESENTATION OF SLATE 4 IN EITHER PROVINCE.

5. SELECTED PROVINCE COMMENT: (A) THE BAC LIEU PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS A HOI CHANH'S ACCOUNT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL GUERRILLA UNIT. THE RALLIER SAID THAT VC VILLAGE GUERRILLA UNIT LEADER, TAM HUNG, SUCCEEDED IN ORGANIZING THREE GUERRILLA SQUADS, LARGELY FROM RF, PF, AND PSDF DESERTERS. SOME MONTHS AGO, AT THE SUGGESTION OF VC HIGHER HEADQUARTERS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE THREE SQUADS VOLUNTARILY UP-GRADED THEMSELVES TO BECOME THE DISTRICT'S LOCAL FORCE C-1109 UNIT. THE UNIT CONTROLLED THREE HAMLETS AT NIGHT (RATED "B" IN THE GVN HES SYSTEM) AND ONE HAMLET BOTH DAY AND NIGHT (RATED "C" IN THE HES). THE UNIT HAS TWO OR THREE YOUNG FEMALE COMMO-LIAISON CADRE IN EACH HAMLET WHO BUY RICE AND OTHER SUPPLIES, PROBABLY IN THE GIA RAI DISTRICT TOWN, AND REPORT ON GVN TROOP MOVEMENTS. THE LOCAL POPULATION ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THE VC. IT IS TAXED AT

THE RATE OF VN\$10,000 PER FAMILY PER YEAR, AND WILLINGLY
CONTRIBUTE SUPPLIES AND INFORMATION AS WELL.

(C) THE VINH BINH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT THE NEW
GVN PROVINCE CHIEF LTC HAP IS PURSUING AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY OF
SMALL UNIT AMBUSHES AND OTHER OPERATIONS (CAN THO 627). HOWEVER,
TWO OUTPOSTS WERE OVERRUN IN TIEN CAN DISTRICT THE NIGHT OF
AUGUST 4-5 WITH LITTLE OPPOSITION, ILLUSTRATING THE DETERIORATING
SECURITY SITUATION IN THAT AREA. HAP CONTINUES DISTRUSTFUL OF
HIS PROVINCE STAFF AND DISTRICT CHIEFS (SEE CAN THO 627) AND,
AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, IS ATTEMPTING PERSONALLY TO REVIEW
ALL THE WORK OF HIS SUBORDINATES.

(D) THE PROVINCE REP IN AN GIANG REPORTS THMZ RF TROOPS IN
THE AN GIANG SPECIAL AREA OF OPERATIONS IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE
ENGAGED A HOSTILE COMPANY-SIZED UNIT THAT PROBABLY COMPRISED
NVA INFILTRATORS. THIS MAY BE PART OF RENEWED INFILTRATION IN
THE AREA PRESAGED BY THE AUGUST 5 SHELLING OF AN RF ARTILLERY
OUTPOST THERE (CAN THO 635). GVN FORCES ARE CONDUCTING A
SWEEP IN THE AREA. THEY WERE SUPPORTED BY NAVAL GUNFIRE THE
NIGHT OF AUGUST 8-9.

(E) THE DINH TUONG VICE CONSUL REPORTS CONTINUED MODERATE
VC ACTIVITY, ESPECIALLY MORTARING AND BOOBY TRAPS IN THE AREA
OF CAI LAY DISTRICT SOUTH OF ROUTE 4. XUAN KIEN OUTPOST
(XS 191436) WAS ATTACKED FOR THE THIRD TIME IN A WEEK; THE VC
LOST 16 KILLED, AS OPPOSED TO 2 PF KILLED AND 8 WOUNDED.
LEHMAN UNQUOTE
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